2: Hudson E-4, 5 (1936) 1938 RQ2 Kazak RQ2

593 562 woman but agreed that this position varied considerably from family to family. There were examples of hen-pecked husbands dominated by their wives, but these were looked upon with a mixture of disdain and amusement by the community.

[841] According to Mohammedan custom women are considered unclean at the time of menstruation, but the Kazak woman seems to have been little affected by this view because she could not be spared from the work around the camp to perform the proper ablutions, prayers and fasts.[21]

595 855 [601] When circumstances made it possible for each wife to have her own kibitka she brought up her children more or less separately from those of other wives. When there were two or more wives living in one kibitka maternal authority tended to become somewhat confused but under the general supervision of the senior wife. Children applied to other wives of their father the same term (cece) which they used for their own mother or, if it was necessary to distinguish, added a descriptive term: egej cece (stepmother). The several wives likewise referred to any of their husband's children as ul (son) or qɫz (daughter). As the children passed out of the infancy stage boys were brought up by the father, while the 852 girls were trained by their mothers.[22] Boys were circumcised at any time from three to twelve years of age by a mullah (Mohammedan priest). For this occasion parents were expected to give a feast. Levshin notes[23] that this ceremony was much more strictly observed than any other of the obligations laid down by Islamic law.

884 There were no ceremonial observances at puberty or coming of age, nor was there any fixed age at which a youth was considered to have obtained his majority. According to Grodekov's information[24] it might be anywhere from the twelfth to the fifteenth year, depending on the precocity of the individual. Inasmuch as the sign and symbol of having attained majority was to be master of one's own kibitka it also depended on the affluence of the parents, since the rich could afford to set up their sons at an earlier age. Girls could hardly be said to have ever come of age since a woman was "only half a man," but their marriage might be considered, in this respect, as equivalent to the son's obtaining his own [582] kibitka. The marriage of a girl might take place at any time from about nine years of age on.

597 Children were frequently adopted. This might be because their own parents had died and they would be taken in by relatives of the latter, usually by their father's brother. Or a childless family would adopt a son from one that had several, preferably also from among close relatives. Grodekov[25] further mentions reciprocal exchange of children between two families. I did not obtain any information on this point.

Adoption took place before witnesses and was symbolized by the child touching the breast of his foster mother, indicating that she considered him as her own. Such adopted

[21] See also Rudenko, *Ocherk Byta . . . Kazakov*, 49.
[22] See also Grodekov, *Kirgizy i Kara-kirgizy*, 33.
[23] *Description des hordes*, 356–57.
[24] *Op. cit.*, 36.
[25] *Kirgizy i Kara-kirgizy*, 37; see also Dingelstedt, *Le Droit coutumier*, 252–53.

593 marrying off a daughter by force. Only the Russian law takes her into its protection.

[888] The support of old parents is the duty of the children. In cases of complaint the bii judges it in this manner. A father with no property can move in with a married daughter only with the consent of his son-in-law. (4)

4. E. A. Aleksandrov, Kazalinsk uyezd.

853 608 /36/ A woman whose own milk is not adequate gives her child the milk of a cow, or with the permission of her husband, hires a wet nurse (eneke), who is called by the child "sheshe", like the real mother.

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884 Majority is considered to have been reached at the age of 15, or according to other reports, at 12 (Perovsk uyezd). From this time on the young man goes away, hires himself out and does his work alone, without permission. According to Abdrakhman of the Auliye-Ata uyezd, they are called minors (yas, sagyr - young, not of age) until the age of 13, and from 15 or 16 they are of age. A youth of 14 years can be considered of age or not of age, depending on his mind. In general, if a boy declares that as a minor he cannot answer before the court, or if he declares that in spite of his youth he is capable of carrying out an affair, the court will not find an obstacle to fulfilling his wish, without regard to his exact age. Among the Kirgiz, as Kurpetai Dauletkulov reports, majority begins from the age of 13. According to the report of the chief of the Chimkent uyezd, N. E. Blagovidov, boys are counted as of age at 12, and girls at 9. However girls are not permitted to give testimony as witnesses in court. According to bii Khamahammed, if a girl was spoken for (bata okugan) at the age of 4-8, then the betrothal is equal to marriage (bataning uzi bular iken) and she cannot refuse if the groom does not permit her to (chigalmaidy eri koymagansha). When the daughters of a rich man or of a butcher reach the age of 10, and the daughters of a poor man reach 15, then the customary law permits them to declare their unwillingness to marry the groom chosen by the father (tiymeymen dese adat kuteredi). This is explained by saying that the daughter of the rich man, who is fed and dressed better (achimi, yemi, kiymi taza), just as the daughter of the butcher who

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lives on meat, reaches full age earlier (from the age of 10) than the poor man's daughter (from the age of 15). Then Khamahammed added: "I cannot speak for others, but I only know that I reached my majority (balagatka yettim), /37/ at 12, since from that time on I became capable of being the father of a family (kedkhudachilikke yarab idim). Other weaker people (nacharrak adam) mature only at 15."

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Children enjoy the protection of the mother's clan (turkun), when the father's clan is inactive or absent. There are cases when after the death of the father from the clan, let us say, of Chumekey, the boy is raised among his mother's kin, let us say, Dzhappas, and calls himself Dzhappas among them, to avoid coldness in his relations. However, in case the boy is killed, his own clan demands the wergeld and not his mother's clan.

If the deceased father has no relatives, the children go to the mother's clan. The son is free to go or not, for he can take a trade, but the daughter must go. They demand her in court.

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No one can belong to his mother's clan. Even illegitimate children (kharami nikasyz) seek out their father, and are considered to be of his clan. Children born of a widow several years after the death of her husband, are in some places considered on an equal with the children of the deceased. (Perovsk uyezd).

Among the Kirgiz, those who have grown up in a strange clan do not cease to consider themselves of the clan of their father. But kharami bala, without a father, consider themselves in the mother's clan.

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Adopted children, inchiles bala, as the name itself indicates, are sharers of the property alloted by their titular parents. The adopted son pays fines and wergeld and receives them just as the real children. When the parents of the boy to be adopted are alive, their consent is necessary for the adoption.

Mutual adoption or exchange of children is possible only between kin. The adoption of a child is announced before witnesses and is accompanied by the slaughter of an animal, from which a witness, the aksakal, puts the asyk /38/ yilik bone into the hand of the adopted child if it is a boy. The adopted one, showing it in his hand, takes some to eat. A girl can be given the tokpan yilik.

596 The family estate was not communal family property in the usual sense, nor can the paterfamilias be regarded as the owner of the family estate which he controlled. The family estate, both the physical and the intangible wealth, was an estate held in trust, and this definition fits the conception of the family (and the lineage) as a corporate structure.

Inheritance in the Great Horde

428 Properly speaking, only a small proportion of the family physical property was transmitted on the death of the father. Prior to his death, his sons, with the exception of the youngest son, had allotments made over to them of various kinds. In the normal course, these sons would have had a tent or yurt set up for them by the father,[106] which was generally done on marriage, but sometimes earlier, when they came of age; these two events, of course, might also be simultaneous. Thus, [584] youths among the Kazakhs were generally regarded as coming of age between their twelfth and fifteenth years; among those who could afford it, the marriage likewise took place at or about this time.[107] [583] The father likewise paid the kalym or bridewealth for these sons; and he gen-

[106] Radloff, Aus Sibirien, I, 477.

[107] Dingelstedt, 153; Izrastsov, 72.